Priorities for policies on ageing in the UNECE Region

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UNECE region: 56 member States

**Median Age**

- ECE
- Africa
- Asia
- Latin America & the Caribbean
- Oceania

Year:
- 2020
- 2030
- 2050
Major milestones of international actions on ageing

1991
United Nations
Principles for Older Persons

Independence
Participation
Care
Self-fulfillment
Dignity
“Areas of concern to ageing individuals”:

- Health and Nutrition
- Protection of Elderly Consumers
- Housing and Environment
- Family
- Social Welfare
- Income Security and Employment
- Education
The Second World Assembly sought to answer several key questions:

- What approaches are needed to seize the opportunities and address and prevent the challenges of population and individual ageing in countries at different stages of the demographic transition?
- How to balance and reconcile demographic ageing and societal development?
- What comprehensive and sustainable actions should be promoted in traditional areas of concern to older individuals such as health, independence, and security and safety?
Priority Directions for Policy Action:

I. Older Persons and Development

II. Advancing Health and Wellbeing into Old Age

III. Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments
Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is guided by the Regional Implementation Strategy for the MIPAA (UNECE RIS/MIPAA)

UNECE region: 56 Member States

UNECE RIS/MIPAA
### Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

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<tr>
<td>Global Theme</td>
<td>Challenges and Opportunities of Ageing</td>
<td>Full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: social situation, well-being and dignity, development and the full realization of all human rights for older persons</td>
<td>(Regional Themes)</td>
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<td>UNECE Theme</td>
<td>A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities</td>
<td>Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing</td>
<td>A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the Potential of Living Longer</td>
<td>A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life</td>
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2007: León, Spain

León Ministerial Declaration

Theme: A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities

2012: Vienna, Austria

Vienna Political Declaration

Theme: Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing

POLICY GOALS:
I. Longer working life is encouraged and ability to work is maintained
II. Participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older persons are promoted
III. Dignity, health and independence in older age are promoted and safeguarded
IV. Intergenerational solidarity is maintained and enhanced

2017: Lisbon, Portugal

Lisbon Ministerial Declaration

Theme: A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer

POLICY GOALS:
I. Recognizing the potential of older persons
II. Encouraging longer working life and ability to work
III. Ensuring ageing with dignity

2022: Rome, Italy

(Draft) Rome Ministerial Declaration

Theme: A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life

POLICY GOALS:
I – Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life
II - Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families
III - Mainstreaming ageing to advance a society for all ages
2007: León, Spain
Theme: A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities

2012: Vienna, Austria
Theme: Ensuring a society for all ages: Promoting quality of life and active ageing

2017: Lisbon, Portugal
Theme: A Sustainable Society for All Ages: Realizing the potential of living longer

2022: Rome, Italy
Theme: A Sustainable World for All Ages: Joining Forces for Solidarity and Equal Opportunities Throughout Life

MAINSTREAMING

DEVELOPMENT OF AGEING SOCIETIES

RIGHTS:
- HUMAN
- SOCIAL
- ECONOMIC
- ...

HEALTH

PARTICIPATION

SECURITY/DIGNITY

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY & RECIPROCITY

LIFE-LONG INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT
UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid Plan of Action

...of success? or failure?
Guidelines for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Three types of assessment tools:

- Participatory assessment tools for bottom-up approach (e.g., focus groups; time-use surveys; livelihood analysis; resource mapping; individual interviews, etc.)
- Instrumental (output) indicators
- Outcome indicators

Active Ageing Index
Two international plans of action on ageing – similar results of implementation...

1985: First Review & Appraisal:
“...limited progress in improving the living conditions of [older persons]...”

1989: Second Review & Appraisal:
“...little progress...”

1993: Third Review & Appraisal
“... daunting task.”

1997: Fourth Review & Appraisal
“... minimal response...”

2007: First Review & Appraisal:
‘some success’, as well as ‘significant gaps in progress’

2012: Second Review & Appraisal:
‘Overall progress in the implementation ... has continued to be uneven, with several shortfalls.’

2017: Third Review & Appraisal:
(No global conclusion: review and appraisal were conducted at national and regional levels)
Two international plans of action on ageing –
BARRIERS TO NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

- Lack of financial resources
- Weak national infrastructure on ageing: shortage of staff; insufficient policy know-how
- Low priority of issues of ageing on the policy agenda

- Lack of financial resources
- Inadequate human resources
- Lack of political will
Insufficient coordination: lack of professional staff in the UN focal point on ageing (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and in regional UN offices for overseeing the implementation process.

Marginal technical support to building national capacity on ageing in less developed countries: no Trust Fund for Ageing; technical support is provided exclusively by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, UNFPA.

Limited analytical capacity of the UN Secretariat to ensure evidence informed implementation of the international policy documents on ageing.
International policy documents on ageing are not legally binding
Policy responses to ageing: meeting new challenges

COVID-19

WAR IN UKRAINE

Credit: Tyler Hicks/The New York Times
Never before in human history has ageing been a major determinant of the course of epidemic.

1. Older people are the main victims of COVID-19 pandemic – not only of the virus SARS-CoV-2 itself, but also of the measures undertaken to prevent its spread
2. Older people are not the main force driving the spread of SARS-CoV-2
3. Older people are, and should be, active participants in fighting the pandemic and overcoming its consequences
Problems and needs of older people

- **Physical security and safety** - especially in the immediate area of a military conflict and also during evacuation
- **Access to medical care**, including geriatric care
- **Provision and delivery of food**
- **Provision and delivery of essential medicines** needed for daily intake
- **Care and hygiene products**
- **Financial security**
- **Psychological assistance**
- **Transportation. In-house transportation**
- **Home care**

Credit: Tyler Hicks/The New York Times
Priority direction I: Ensuring enabling an supportive environments

Issue 8: Emergency situations

Objective 1: Equal access by older persons to food, shelter and medical care and other services during and after natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.

Objective 2: Enhanced contributions of older persons to the reestablishment and reconstruction of communities and the rebuilding of the social fabric following emergencies.
Responding to challenges and opportunities of ageing in the new reality
Reactive efforts to meet the needs of older persons plus proactive efforts to adapt society to the demographic transition and build a society for all ages

- Establish preventive dimension of policy on ageing:
  - Mainstream life-course approach
  - Promote multi-generational cohesion

From policy on ageing to policy of longevity!
Coordinating Agency for Policy of Longevity:

- Internationally recognized
- Financially sound
- Professionally staffed and equipped
- To provide technical support
- To generate policy know-how

Responding to challenges and opportunities of ageing in the new reality

From policy “know-what” to policy “know-how”
Responding to challenges and opportunities of ageing in the new reality

Development and adoption of an international convention on older age rights.
A sound perspective should be given to an international legally binding instrument on ageing, a long-awaited convention.

From meeting the needs to ensuring the rights
UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid Plan of Action
Thank you

In solidarity with older people in Ukraine